

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-12 (Previously Cancelled) .

13. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus for printing an image on a receiving substrate, the printing apparatus comprising:

- an ink applicator for imagewise applying liquid ink to a side of the receiving substrate;
- a drying section having an active drying device for active drying of the receiving substrate after said ink application;
- a transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate along a path past said ink applicator and through said drying section;

wherein said path includes a first substantially straight portion at said ink applicator, and a first and a second convex curve in said drying section, said first and second convex curve separated by a solely second substantially straight portion.

14. (Previously Added) A printing apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said transportation device comprises a printing-transportation device for transporting the

Serial No.: 09/781,861

2

receiving substrate past said ink applicator and a drying-transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate through said drying section, and wherein said printing-transportation device is suitable for high precision transport and said drying-transportation device is suitable for high temperature transport.

15. (Previously Added) A printing apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said printing apparatus is an ink-jet printer.

16. (Previously Added) A printing apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said receiving substrate is a separate sheet.

17. (Previously Added) A printing apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said transportation device comprises a vacuum belt.

18. (Previously Added) A printing apparatus for printing an image on a receiving substrate, the printing apparatus comprising:

- a first ink applicator for imagewise applying liquid ink to a first side of the receiving substrate;
- a first drying section having a first active drying device

Serial No.: 09/781,861

3

for active drying of the receiving substrate after said first ink application;

- a first transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate along a first path past said first ink applicator and through said first drying section;
- a second ink applicator, different from said first ink applicator, for imagewise applying liquid ink to a second side of the receiving substrate opposite to said first side;
- a second drying section having a second active drying device for active drying of the receiving substrate after said second ink application;
- a second transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate along a second path past said second ink applicator and through said second drying section;
- and a take-over section for transferring said receiving substrate from said first path to said second path; and wherein at least one of said first and second path includes a first substantially straight portion at said corresponding ink applicator, and a first and a second convex curve in said corresponding drying section, said first and second convex curve separated by a second substantially straight portion.

Serial No.: 09/781,861

4

19. (Previously Added) A printing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein at least one of said first and second transportation device comprises a printing-transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate past said corresponding ink applicator and a drying-transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate through said corresponding drying section, and wherein said printing-transportation device is suitable for high precision transport and said drying-transportation device is suitable for high temperature transport.

20. (Previously Added) A printing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said printing apparatus is an ink-jet printer.

21. (Previously Added) A printing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said receiving substrate is a separate sheet.

22. (Previously Added) A printing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein at least one of said first and second transportation device comprises a vacuum belt.

Claims 23-26 (Cancelled).

Serial No.: 09/781,861 5